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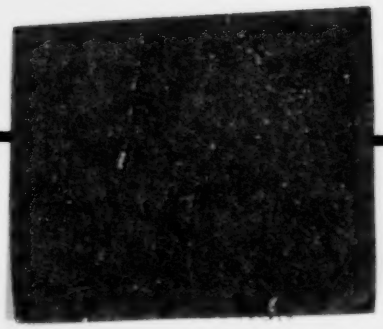

**GENERAL DEBATE**

# Activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

***Report of the Executive Director***

***Summary***

The present report provides an overview of the principal activities and strategic direction of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) during 1996. UNDCP consolidated its position as a centre of competence and a reference point for international drug control. It supported the efforts of Governments to counter the drug problem by providing advisory services through its technical cooperation programmes. Through its network of field offices, it served as a catalyst, fostering subregional agreements and arrangements leading to joint efforts and activities aimed at implementing measures against illicit drug trafficking and abuse. Acting as an honest "broker", UNDCP also furthered bilateral cooperation and understanding, sponsoring direct consultations between the parties involved. It mobilized specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations, the international financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to mount a global response to the drug threat.

The present report also reviews the financial situation of UNDCP and examines progress made on the follow-up to the initiative to broaden its financial base and ensure the sustainability of its activities.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. In 1996, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) served as both an instrument of and reference for the international community in pursuing its drug control objectives within the framework of the international drug control treaties. It led the implementation of an agreed strategy whose fundamental principles included a balanced approach whereby demand reduction and supply reduction were considered mutually reinforcing elements. The strategy also emphasized implementing the international drug control treaties, suppressing illicit drug trafficking and mobilizing civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, with a view to preventing and reducing drug abuse.

2. To support Governments in formulating policies and strategies, UNDCP further consolidated its position as a centre of competence in drug control matters, generating and sharing knowledge on the evolving trends and nature of the drug problem. In that context, it promoted the use of rapid assessment methodology, enabling Governments to ensure that quality as well as quantity was emphasized in gathering information on drug abuse trends at the national level. It organized expert forums on demand reduction, the regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), expert meetings on amphetamine-type stimulants, technical consultations, the improved research capabilities and the finalization of the first world drug report.

3. In 1996, UNDCP focused its efforts on developing a global approach to drug control, giving priority to the main regions affected by illicit cultivation, trafficking and abuse. Comprehensive programmes dealing with the different aspects of the drug problem were tailored to meet specific situations. UNDCP involved Governments and target groups in the process of defining and developing the programmes in order to ensure the sustainability of activities initiated at the national level.

4. UNDCP has endeavoured to respond rapidly and proactively to new drug control challenges. It provided, as a matter of priority, guidance to the Balkan States on addressing the drug problem. Their law enforcement agencies have been faced with strong pressure from criminal groups seeking to exploit the post-conflict situation and establish drug trafficking routes. UNDCP assistance has constituted an integral part of the reconstruction and institution-building process in the post-conflict situation in the Balkans. UNDCP has also drawn the attention of the international community to the new threat posed by the illicit manufacture of, traffic in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. It convened two expert group meetings to evaluate the extent and nature of the problem and to adopt recommendations to counter the threat. Those recommendations will be before the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fortieth session for its consideration.

5. The pursuit of subregional, regional and interregional cooperation between Governments remained one of the cornerstones of the UNDCP strategy to generate and strengthen the transnational political commitment essential to effective action to counter the drug problem. UNDCP fostered subregional agreements and arrangements, particularly memoranda of understanding, between Governments in vulnerable areas, and galvanized political support and commitment for mutually supportive action. It also furthered bilateral cooperation and understanding in the field of drug control by playing the role of an honest "broker", sponsoring direct consultations between the parties concerned. As a result, a growing number of drug control activities are currently being designed and implemented within the framework of memoranda of understanding between, for example, UNDCP and Governments in Central America, South America, central Asia, south-east Asia, south-west Asia and central Europe, and within the framework of regional plans of action, such as the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa, adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its Assembly of Heads of State and Government held at Yaoundé from 8 to 10 July 1996, and the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, adopted by the Regional Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation in the Caribbean, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 15 to 17 May 1996.

6. Through its technical cooperation activities, mainly coordinated by its network of field offices, UNDCP continued to act as both catalyst and advocate in the area of drug control at the national level. In 1996, it supported national efforts and initiatives in that area, giving particular attention to the establishment of coordinating and planning capacities, the adoption of legal frameworks to ensure implementation of the international drug control treaties, and the strengthening of national capacities in demand reduction and law enforcement. UNDCP provided legal advice and assistance to 15 Governments to enable them to become parties to the international drug control treaties and to enact national laws and regulations to implement the treaties. The assistance included training for law enforcement personnel and national administrators, as well as for judges, magistrates and prosecutors. In cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), UNDCP also assisted Governments in their efforts to prevent the diversion of drugs and their precursors into the illicit market. In 1996, UNDCP, in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, launched a global programme valued at US$ 4.3 million to support Governments in their efforts to counter money-laundering. UNDCP support for government institution-building efforts included working with Governments in the preparation, adoption and implementation of national drug control master plans.

7. In 1996, the operational focus of UNDCP included the development of a global approach, the strengthening of interregional links between ongoing regional and subregional cooperation programmes, particularly between programmes in countries in central and south-west Asia. Another important objective

was the establishment and strengthening of the UNDCP coordinating mechanism with a view to facilitating and optimizing the provision of technical assistance in drug control at the national and regional levels.

8. In its efforts to engage civil society in countering the drug problem, UNDCP has strengthened its ties with non-governmental organizations. Over 11 per cent of allocations from the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in 1996 were disbursed through non-governmental organizations. UNDCP mobilized the International Olympic Committee and national Olympic committees to launch a campaign to use sports as a vehicle for drug prevention. To promote healthy lifestyles as an alternative to drug abuse, UNDCP organized an exhibit on the theme "Sport against drugs". In 1996, the exhibit was displayed at Vienna, at United Nations Headquarters and at Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States of America, on the occasion of the Olympic Games. To ensure broad-based efforts in drug control, UNDCP promoted partnerships with the business world to enhance workplace programmes, often jointly with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

9. To fulfil its mandate to coordinate and provide leadership for all United Nations drug control activities, UNDCP involved specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, in mounting a global response to the drug threat. Through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), UNDCP continued to secure their commitment to include, whenever appropriate, a drug control dimension in their programmes of work. At the field level, UNDCP has succeeded in integrating drug control input into the programmes and activities of other United Nations entities. Currently UNDCP has approved 14 such initiatives involving the Office of the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Universal Postal Union. In 1996, over 41 per cent of allocations from the Fund of UNDCP involved other United Nations agencies as executing or associated agencies. The new United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which is being finalized, will further enhance inter-agency coordination at the field level and increase opportunities to incorporate the drug control dimension into the activities of other agencies.

10. One of the challenges facing UNDCP is the growing dichotomy between the recognition that increased priority should be attributed to the fight against illicit drugs and the resources allocated at the national and international levels to undertake and sustain the activities necessary to make an impact on that fight. Pledges made at the highest political level to deal with the drug problem do not always match the resources provided to reduce the threat posed by drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

11. The precarious financial situation of UNDCP has continued. Fewer than nine Governments made over 90 per cent of the voluntary contributions to the Fund of UNDCP. Resources allocated to the international drug control regular budget of the United Nations account for less than 8 per cent of the total budget of UNDCP. This fragile financial situation, coupled with increased prioritization by Governments contributing to the Fund of UNDCP, has jeopardized the elaboration and implementation of long-term strategies and the sustainability of the achievements of UNDCP. The immediate challenge is to ensure the emergence of a greater sense of "ownership" of UNDCP, whereby Member States recognize that they are its "shareholders", that they have a responsibility to participate actively in its activities and to guarantee the availability of a critical mass of resources, marked by a certain degree of certainty and duration, to enable it to implement its mandate in a sustainable and effective manner.

12. In 1996, international drug control continued to enjoy broad political support, as evidenced by, for example, the convening of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on international drug control in June. Member States represented at the ministerial-level reaffirmed their commitment to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to accord the drug issue higher priority at

the national and international levels. The session was part of a process which, over the past 10 years, has led to increased recognition by the international community of illicit drug abuse and trafficking as one of the major threats to public safety and national security. The momentum was reinforced at the international level by the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/64, section IV, to convene in 1998 a special session in order to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs. The special session will present a further opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to deal with the drug problem as a matter of priority and to translate that commitment into concrete action. For sustained progress to be made in that direction, action against illicit drugs has to be made a priority at both the national and international levels, a fact that must be reflected in budgetary allocations, as well as in political will, at all levels of government. The General Assembly has set an example by deciding to include drug control as one of the specific priorities of the United Nations in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

## I. REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

### A. Africa

#### *1. Action taken at the regional level*

13. As follow-up to a memorandum of understanding signed by UNDCP and OAU in 1994, UNDCP assisted the OAU secretariat in the preparation of the Plan of Action for Drug Control in Africa. Through the OAU Plan of Action, which provides for the implementation of specific drug control measures, African Governments have reaffirmed their commitment to combat the drug problem. UNDCP will build on this commitment in pursuit of its drug control activities in Africa. It will be assisting the OAU secretariat in enhancing its capacity to implement the plan of action.

14. In August 1996, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting of heads of State and Government adopted a protocol on combating illicit drugs. UNDCP has approached the SADC secretariat to develop a cooperation framework within which the Programme would extend its assistance to Member States as they implement the provisions of the protocol at the national and regional levels.

15. At its meeting at Abudja in September 1996, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a UNDCP partner, decided to convene a ministerial meeting on drug trafficking and abuse, particularly their impact on youth and criminality, to be held in Cape Verde in early 1997. At the ministerial meeting, UNDCP will, in consultation with the ECOWAS secretariat, contribute to the discussion of the drug abuse and trafficking situation in the region.

16. An expert forum on demand reduction in northern Africa was organized by UNDCP at Hammamet, Tunisia, from 1 to 5 July 1996. Similar expert forums had been held for eastern and southern Africa at Nairobi from 1 to 5 November 1993 and for western Africa at Yaoundé from 6 to 10 February 1995. UNDCP is in the process of elaborating a regional project that will cover the priorities in demand reduction identified by the three expert forums.

#### *2. Action taken at the country level*

17. In western Africa, UNDCP cooperated with 16 countries, providing training, advisory assistance and equipment to support their national drug control institutions. All but one of the western African countries have established interministerial coordinating bodies entrusted with policy planning and coordination of national efforts, and more than 200 senior national officers have benefited from training in legislation, law enforcement, health, social work and demand reduction. In association with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention of the United States and the Bureau for International Narcotics

and Law Enforcement Affairs of the United States, UNDCP organized at Abidjan in July 1996 a workshop for the training of trainers in demand reduction for 45 officers from 16 countries in western Africa.

18. In eastern and southern Africa, UNDCP provided support to Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe in establishing or improving the functioning of national coordinating bodies or interministerial bodies.

19. UNDCP, in cooperation with the Customs Co-operation Council (also called the World Customs Organization), has provided training and equipment to Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe to ensure the effective operation of the regional intelligence liaison office (RILO) network, which covers 15 countries in the subregion of eastern and southern Africa. The RILO network has improved the exchange and sharing of drug intelligence and the detection of new drug trafficking trends. In an evaluation of the RILO network, it was recommended that linkages between projects and related law enforcement programmes should be increased and that participating Governments should increase their commitment to project activities.

20. In 1996, UNDCP provided support to Governments to enhance the effectiveness and capacity of law enforcement services, particular emphasis being given to Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and United Republic of Tanzania. UNDCP rendered support to Governments in eastern and southern Africa faced with increased drug trafficking through their seaports as a result of increased reliance by drug traffickers on the use of containers. To respond to the growing vulnerability of seaports in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, a regional initiative was launched to establish and train specialized units or teams skilled in drug detection, intelligence analysis and investigative methods.

21. Following a drug abuse assessment survey conducted in Ethiopia, a comprehensive drug abuse prevention pilot project was launched at Nazareth, Ethiopia, in 1996. In Zimbabwe, a UNDCP project on the development of a resource centre on drug and alcohol problems provided training to social workers and health-care personnel in various provinces and support for the establishment of committees to promote a better understanding of the drug abuse situation and to coordinate action at the national level.

22. To galvanize the support and involvement of civil society in drug control in Africa, UNDCP launched a special initiative to mobilize non-governmental organizations in eastern and southern Africa, linking them to a network to facilitate information exchange and mutual support. To enhance the capacities of non-governmental organizations, a workshop was organized at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in September 1996 for managers and programme officers of 25 non-governmental organizations from 14 countries on the design of projects and programmes and the execution, management and administration of technical cooperation projects and programmes. That initiative will be replicated in western Africa.

## B. Asia and the Pacific

### *1. Central Asia*

*Action at the regional level*

23. Building on the positive outcome of earlier consultations, a memorandum of understanding on drug control cooperation was signed by Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, together with UNDCP, on the occasion of the interministerial conference to establish drug control cooperation in central Asia, held at Tashkent in May 1996. A subregional drug control cooperation programme submitted by UNDCP and endorsed by the Governments of the countries in central Asia in May 1996 includes projects to strengthen cross-border cooperation and institution-building, to improve drug control measures and to monitor and reduce illicit crops.

### *2. South-west Asia*

*(a) Action at the regional level*

24. Activities during the second year of a programme being carried out jointly by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and UNDCP have strengthened the surveillance capabilities of law enforcement agencies in the border areas of those two countries. Regular meetings have enhanced coordination and information exchange between the law enforcement agencies, contributing to a reduction in illicit drug trafficking in the border areas. Given the fruitful outcome of their cooperation, the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have proposed that the joint programme be extended to cover the border areas of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and the border areas of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan. UNDCP has been requested to provide assistance to that drug law enforcement initiative.

25. Regarding bilateral cooperation in drug control matters involving India and Pakistan, initiated under UNDCP auspices in 1994, those two countries expressed, in consultations held in 1996, satisfaction with their exchange of intelligence, which had led to the identification of cross-border drug trafficking networks. They agreed to examine the feasibility of carrying out joint investigations in important drug trafficking cases and to make concerted efforts to apprehend the financiers involved in drug trafficking, particularly by making better use of the information available.

26. As follow-up to the memoranda of understanding signed by UNDCP and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), a regional workshop was held at the policy level in Sri Lanka in May 1996. Agreement was reached on a subregional strategy and on collaboration in the fields of drug law enforcement and demand reduction. UNDCP, in cooperation with the SAARC secretariat, is developing a full-fledged subregional action plan and a programme of activities to be initiated in 1997.

27. UNDCP has made efforts to establish interregional linkages between ongoing subregional and regional cooperation programmes. In Asia, it initiated a strategic link-up of five central Asian republics (Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) with south-west Asia. Cooperation between the five central Asian countries and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey, all of which are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), will be enhanced through a UNDCP/ECO project to promote coordination and cooperation in drug control in the region covered by ECO. UNDCP, in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, organized an interregional seminar on the challenge that illicit drugs and increased criminality posed to the above-mentioned countries.

28. Interregional cooperation has been furthered through a programme of activities for precursor control in central, south and south-west Asia launched by UNDCP in cooperation with INCB. At a UNDCP/INCB workshop for precursor control, held at Delhi in August 1996, representatives of 13 countries in south and south-west Asia and the central Asian republics reviewed measures to prevent the diversion of precursors and considered ways to set up control and cooperation mechanisms and procedures at the regional level.

*(b) Activities at the country level*

29. In 1996, UNDCP completed its second survey on illicit opium cultivation in Afghanistan. According to the survey, the 55,000-58,000 hectares under opium poppy cultivation during the growing season 1995/96 yielded 2,200-2,300 tonnes of opium. Thus, Afghanistan continued to be one of the world's major producers of illicit opiates. Two provinces, Helmand and Nangarhar, accounted for 73 per cent of total opium production in the country. UNDCP continued to involve local authorities in drug control activities and to provide training, equipment and high-yield wheat seeds to farmers in Nangarhar involved in the 1994 poppy eradication campaign.

30. UNDCP continued to have dialogue with all parties in its search for sustained political consensus and commitment to the eradication of illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. In November 1996, UNDCP sent three missions to Kabul and Kandahar to establish contacts with the Taleban, who are currently in control of 95 per cent of the opium-growing areas and who have declared their opposition to illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and abuse.

31. In 1996, UNDCP developed a four-year drug control programme to provide assistance to Afghanistan. The programme, which has a budget of US$ 15.9 million, is to be initiated at the beginning of 1997. It will cover capacity-building, the reduction and elimination of illicit poppy cultivation, demand reduction and the establishment of a drug control monitoring system, as well as support for law enforcement.

32. UNDCP continued to assist the Government of Pakistan in the implementation of an alternative development programme to eliminate illicit poppy cultivation in the North-West Frontier Province. Substantial progress has been made in increasing farm income. In 1996, some cash crops, particularly onions, generated considerably more income to farmers than opium poppy. According to provisional figures from a government survey on the poppy crop in the Dir district and other poppy-growing areas of the North-West Frontier Province, the level of opium poppy cultivation in the growing season 1995/96 decreased by about 75 per cent compared with that in the growing season 1994/95.

33. UNDCP continued its efforts to enhance the law enforcement capacities of Governments of countries in south and south-west Asia, particularly Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal and Pakistan, by providing training and equipment.

34. UNDCP supported national capacity-building programmes in the field of drug demand reduction in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, giving particular attention to prevention efforts at the community level, particularly by involving non-governmental organizations. In India, the capacity of 18 non-governmental organizations to introduce and implement prevention programmes in the workplace has been strengthened under a project supported by UNDCP, in collaboration with ILO. In Pakistan, four mobile, non-governmental information services have continued to distribute preventive information at the community level. UNDCP will extend its support to ensure the sustainment of those activities.

35. Materials formal and non-formal for preventive education have been developed in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. In Pakistan, where 2,500 student teachers are enrolled in drug abuse prevention courses, drug prevention programmes have become an integral part of the curriculum for the training of teachers.

### *3. South-east Asia*

*(a) Action at the regional level*

36. Following the adoption of a subregional plan of action at a meeting held under the aegis of UNDCP at Beijing in May 1995, senior officials from Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam met with representatives of UNDCP at Yangon in May 1996 to review the progress made in its implementation. Those States had signed a memorandum of understanding following continued efforts by UNDCP to foster regional cooperation. The mutual trust that has subsequently developed among the senior drug officials of those countries has provided a sound basis for the implementation of the plan of action. The Beijing meeting approved two projects, one on precursor control and the other on demand reduction in highland communities. An additional project to enhance operational cooperation in law enforcement was approved in December 1996. Of the 11 subregional projects under the memorandum of understanding, all are expected to be operational in 1997.

37. The UNDCP project on precursor control in south-east Asia was successfully completed in April 1996. It raised awareness and galvanized support among countries in south-east Asia regarding the issue of

precursor control and the adoption of a mechanism for regional cooperation. A follow-up project to increase the capability of regulatory and law enforcement agencies in adopting and enforcing effective measures was initiated in May 1996.

38. In 1996, UNDCP initiated a subregional project to reduce drug abuse in the highlands of east Asia. The project targets certain highland regions for community-based demand reduction and social development activities.

39. In 1996, UNDCP provided assistance in law enforcement to China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand to enhance the capacity of their competent agencies to interdict and seize narcotic drugs, especially in border areas. Through a law enforcement project involving China and Myanmar, cross-border operational mobility of law enforcement agencies have been strengthened by providing telecommunications equipment to anti-narcotic task forces at Lashio and Muse in Myanmar and to their counterparts in Yunnan Province of China. At the first meeting of operational drug law enforcement officers responsible for cross-border cooperation, held at Ruili, China, in July, it was agreed that both China and Myanmar should appoint liaison officers to facilitate the exchange of operational information and should review their activities at a second meeting in 1997. Project activities on the border between Myanmar and Thailand have been in abeyance because of adverse political conditions in the area. A programme aimed at strengthening the narcotic control offices in provinces on the border between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar was initiated in August 1996.

*(b) Activities at the country level*

40. Myanmar remained one of the world's major sources of illicit opiates. Opium production in that country was estimated to range from 1,000 to 2,500 tonnes in the growing season 1995/96. In the Wa area of Myanmar, one of the major opium-producing areas, UNDCP approved a five-year alternative development programme, which includes a strong mechanism for monitoring and verifying poppy cultivation and agreed drug control objectives. The programme covers community development, public health (particularly drug abuse and AIDS prevention), crop substitution and income-generating activities.

41. In May 1996, UNDCP initiated a programme providing assistance in supply and demand reduction to the north-western part of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It improved access to the target areas by providing for the construction of roads and bridges. The UNDCP-supported Xieng Khouang highland development programme, continued to improve agricultural practices, including irrigation, and to assist in the construction of schools and health-care centres to support alternative development programmes.

42. An assessment of the drug abuse situation in rural and urban areas of the Lao People's Democratic Republic indicated that total annual opium consumption in the rural areas had decreased from 80 tonnes in 1995 to 50 tonnes in 1996. High opium prices partly accounted for that development. However, a survey among resettled Lao refugees coming mainly from camps in Thailand showed a high rate of opium abuse. UNDCP is cooperating through a joint inter-agency programme with UNHCR to deal with the problem.

43. In Viet Nam, two of the six programmes referred to in the national drug control master plan were launched with UNDCP support in April 1996. Among the six programmes was a five-year alternative development programme in the major opium-producing area of Ky Son, a project to strengthen the planning and coordinating capacity of drug control institutions, a programme to strengthen the drug law enforcement capacity of the police and customs services and demand reduction projects targeting high-risk groups.

44. In south-east Asia, UNDCP continued to support several demand reduction projects at the subregional and national levels, using community-based approaches emphasizing self-help and mutual assistance and involving local organizations and communities. The review of the cross-border project involving China and Myanmar in March 1996, which contributed to raising the level of awareness of the dangers of drug abuse,

the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), indicated that drug abuse in that border area had been significantly reduced. In 1996, UNDCP provided support to the Yangon treatment and research unit in Myanmar, particularly by providing equipment and training to strengthen its treatment and research capacity.

45. UNDCP provided support to countries in south-east Asia, particularly Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, to strengthen their institutional capacity in drug control.

#### *4. The Pacific*

46. UNDCP provided support to the drug law enforcement training programme being implemented by the South Pacific Forum to improve the drug law enforcement capabilities of police and customs administrations in countering the growing use of the south Pacific as a transit area for drug trafficking. In 1996 training was provided to 100 police and customs officials from the south Pacific.

### C. Europe and the Middle East

#### *1. Action at the regional level*

47. Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding at Prague on 5 October 1995, UNDCP provided assistance to strengthen the operational cross-border cooperation among drug law enforcement agencies in Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. At a follow-up meeting held at Bratislava in October 1996, ministers of those countries adopted a declaration in which they recognized the importance of the legal assistance provided by UNDCP. At a summit meeting of the member States of the Central European Initiative, it was decided that combating illicit drugs in central Europe should be one of the priorities of the Initiative, and that the support of UNDCP should be sought in harmonizing institutional and legislative measures to deal with the drug problem.

48. Drug traffickers have begun using the transcaucasian countries (Armenia, Azerbajian and Georgia) as a major route for smuggling illicit drugs out of south-west Asia and into Europe. To promote cooperation and assistance in drug control, the Executive Director of UNDCP initiated consultations with the Governments of the three transcaucasian countries in August 1996. The strong support for and commitment to drug control at the highest level of government in those countries will provide a solid foundation for regional cooperation and enhanced trans-border cooperation between them and their neighbouring countries.

#### *2. Activities at the country level*

49. In 1996, UNDCP promoted the upgrading of national licit drug control structures in 27 States, including States in eastern and central Europe and member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in central Asia, in close cooperation with INCB and the PHARE* programme of the European Commission. Experts from beneficiary countries received in-depth training in the implementation of international drug control treaties, the harmonization of national legislation and the enhancement of their capability to assess national needs regarding the control of licit drugs.

50. In the Balkans, weakened judiciary and law enforcement agencies were facing strong pressure from criminal groups seeking to exploit the post-conflict situation by re-establishing drug trafficking routes, thereby maintaining the flow of illicit drugs from source countries in south-west Asia to markets in western Europe. In an effort to respond rapidly to the new drug control challenges in the post-war situation in the Balkans, UNDCP provided, as a matter of priority, assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the former

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*Originally, Poland/Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy.

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. At the pledging conference on law enforcement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, held at Dublin on 28 September 1996, the Government of the United States pledged to fund UNDCP assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina; subsequently, in October 1996, a similar pledge was made by the Government of Japan.

51. UNDCP assistance, an integral part of the reconstruction and institution-building process in the post-conflict situation, will also contribute to the development of the legal framework for drug control, strengthen law enforcement services and build up the capacity of educational, health and social welfare agencies involved in drug abuse prevention. One of the priorities will be to support the establishment of a mechanism to provide coordination at the national level.

52. In order to assess the current drug situation in the Russian Federation, to identify the priority needs of the country in drug control and to select areas for possible assistance, UNDCP initiated technical consultations on drug control cooperation with that country in 1996.

53. In the context of a UNDCP multisectoral project, Turkish experts in health care and drug law enforcement provided training to neighbouring countries, particularly CIS member States. UNDCP supported a drug abuse assessment study that had established the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Research and Treatment Center (AMATEM) as the national focal point for activities involving the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. UNDCP has further reinforced the capacities of the Turkish customs, coast guard and police by providing specialized training and equipment.

54. An agreement on a two-year multisectoral drug control assistance package was signed by UNDCP and the Palestinian Authority in April 1996. The package is aimed at upgrading the legal and institutional framework for drug control and enhancing operational drug law enforcement capacities. It is also aimed at expanding facilities for the treatment of drug abusers and raising public awareness of the dangers posed by drug abuse. Due to adverse political circumstances, delivery of the planned assistance has been temporarily suspended.

55. UNDCP initiated the second phase of the integrated area development programme in Lebanon in October 1996. The programme forms an integral part of the government development programme for the Beqa'a valley, which includes the provision of large-scale assistance to the area following the successful eradication of illicit crops for four consecutive years. UNDCP will focus its assistance on the consolidation of activities in the social and health sectors and the promotion of drug abuse awareness and prevention through social centres and schools.

## D. Latin America and the Caribbean

### *1. Action at the regional level*

56. In May 1996, a number of Governments in Central America, including those of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, together with UNDCP, signed a memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation. The signatories agreed to the adoption and implementation of a common legal framework, the strengthening of the Permanent Central American Commission for the Eradication of the Illicit Production, Traffic, Consumption and Use of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the development of common subregional drug abuse information systems. The memorandum of understanding will also result in priority being given to training programmes for cross-border law enforcement operations, measures against money-laundering and drug abuse prevention. Initially, joint efforts will focus on the harmonization of national drug control legislation in the context of an ongoing programme related to legal development and cooperation in Central America, funded by UNDCP, the Inter-American Drug Control Commission (CICAD) and the Permanent Central American Commission.

57. Under the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation between Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru, together with UNDCP, advanced training courses were organized for senior law enforcement and judiciary officials from signatory States and observers from other countries, co-funded by the signatory States and UNDCP. The training courses covered intelligence and investigation techniques, money-laundering investigation, control of precursors and synthetic drugs, and drug interdiction. A subregional programme was initiated to provide training in the investigation and prosecution of drug cases for judges and prosecutors. The demand reduction programme of the memorandum of understanding, elaborated by the signatory States in collaboration with UNDCP and CICAD, was approved by UNDCP in 1996. Its objective is to establish a common subregional drug abuse information system and to develop a training programme for the provision of drug abuse prevention, rehabilitation and social reintegration services for the benefit of the health and education authorities in the countries concerned.

58. The Regional Meeting on Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean held at Bridgetown in May 1996 was organized by UNDCP, in conjunction with the Government of Barbados and the European Community. As the drug problem had been increasingly undermining stability and socio-economic development in the Caribbean, the Meeting adopted the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean to complement or strengthen ongoing national, bilateral and multilateral efforts and to optimize the use of existing national and regional coordination and cooperation mechanisms. UNDCP has enabled countries in the region to implement several provisions of the Plan of Action by revising UNDCP-assisted programmes initiated prior to its adoption. To facilitate the follow-up and implementation of the Plan of Action, UNDCP established a flexible, informal, pan-Caribbean mechanism for the coordination of drug control assistance in the Caribbean, to be based at the UNDCP regional office in Barbados. The coordination mechanism will facilitate the exchange of information and coordination in the implementation of the Plan of Action among participating States, facilitate and improve relations between recipient and donor countries and optimize the allocation of technical assistance resources for drug control activities.

### *2. Activities at the country level*

59. In the law enforcement sector, UNDCP supported operational and investigative training, providing selected equipment to law enforcement agencies and assisting in establishing and improving the functioning of national drug control coordinating bodies, particularly in Brazil, Cuba and Ecuador and in other countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Similar support was provided to Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru within the framework of a subregional memorandum of understanding between the Governments of those countries and UNDCP.

60. UNDCP provided support for the prevention of diversion of precursors and licit drugs, particularly in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Peru.

61. Brazil has emerged as one of the world's largest markets for psychotropic substances, mostly because of inadequate control mechanisms in manufacturing, distribution and prescription practices. The sanitary surveillance secretariat of the Brazilian Ministry of Health, responsible for the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, has requested assistance from UNDCP in designing a national programme to identify and rectify its institutional deficiencies. The allocation by the Ministry of Health of US$ 27 million to fund the national programme is a reflection of the strong national commitment to deal with the serious and complex problem posed by large-scale abuse of and trafficking in psychotropic substances. Under a Government-funded preparatory assistance project, Brazilian authorities and UNDCP, in consultation with INCB, have been reviewing existing deficiencies with a view to recommending remedial measures to be implemented over a period of 2-3 years starting in 1997.

62. The nature and scale of UNDCP alternative development interventions in the Andean subregion continued along its course of change and adjustment. UNDCP continued to carry out its role as advocate,

technical partner, coordinator and source of partial funding of such interventions. In 1996, UNDCP support to alternative development in the Andean subregion contributed to the eradication of about 6,000 hectares of coca bush and the provision of services and alternative income-generating activities for about 30,000 farmers involved in illicit crop cultivation. In Bolivia, pilot agro-industrial enterprises and other assets were transferred to the beneficiaries. Similar transfer arrangements were being finalized for Peru.

63. The coordinating and supporting role of UNDCP in alternative development is being demonstrated in Colombia through a programme providing US$ 5 million of support (50 per cent of which is provided by government cost-sharing) to the Office of the National Alternative Development Plan (PLANTE). UNDCP is assisting the Government in establishing a permanent institution at the national level responsible for raising funds and planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring technical cooperation in alternative development projects in the country.

64. In areas under coca bush cultivation in Bolivia and Peru, UNDCP is assisting in the development of comprehensive alternative development activities, full government backing and broad-based donor support being preconditions for that assistance. The role of the private sector in supporting drug control efforts is strongly promoted in all three Andean countries, and some important successes have been achieved, particularly in Bolivia (Chapare) and Peru (Huallaga). In Peru, UNDCP provided technical support to CONTRADROGAS, the national drug coordinating body established in April 1996 to implement the national drug control plan.

65. As for preventive education programmes, in 1996, some 1.5 million youth in Latin America and the Caribbean were reached through campaigns to create awareness, and the development of school curricula funded by UNDCP.

66. In Colombia, UNDCP provided support to set up long-term national demand reduction programmes within the ministries of health and education. A precondition for UNDCP cooperation was often the securement of appropriate levels of government counterpart support in terms of funding and local-level coordination.

67. In the course of implementing the national demand reduction plan of Brazil, five key areas (Ceara, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul) elaborated comprehensive demand reduction plans. Those plans placed emphasis on drug abuse prevention among street children, intravenous drug users and women in urban slums. The costly and labour-intensive interventions were supported by significant cost-sharing, estimated at over 80 per cent, by state governments and private foundations. In Brazil, UNDCP began working with well-known corporate sponsors on the organization of large-scale social mobilization campaigns to support drug abuse prevention and healthy lifestyles. In southern Brazil, UNDCP continued implementation of a programme valued at US$ 1.6 million for the prevention of drug abuse in the workplace, involving employers' federations, unions and local governments.

68. In Mexico, there was further integration of programmes for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse among workers and their families in the workplace. In Jamaica, UNDCP and ILO supported the national council on drug abuse prevention in establishing a pilot programme on the reduction of drug and alcohol problems in the workplace.

69. In Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, UNDCP prioritized demand reduction programmes aimed at high-risk groups, particularly children in especially difficult circumstances, street children, women in urban slums and intravenous drug abusers in major cities.

### E. Drug control master plans

70. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 6 (XXXIX), UNDCP has continued to assist Member States in the development, implementation and evaluation of national drug control master plans, which serve as a guide for coordinating drug control activities at the national level. In that resolution, the Commission invited UNDCP to make use of existing regional forums to share experiences relating to the development, implementation and evaluation of national drug control master plans. In response to that, the Governments of Egypt and Morocco shared their experiences in the implementation of their master plans with representatives of countries attending the expert forum on demand reduction held at Hammamet, Tunisia, in July 1996.

71. In the African region, UNDCP assisted Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia in the elaboration of their national drug control master plans. Morocco and Namibia approved their master plans in March 1996. In Asia and the Pacific, national drug control master plans were being implemented by 11 States. In 1996, UNDCP provided support to Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam in the preparation and finalization of such master plans. In Europe, UNDCP assisted Armenia, Georgia, Latvia and Lithuania in the finalization of their master plans. In Central and South America, UNDCP provided support to Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay in the elaboration of their master plans. In the Caribbean, 22 out of 29 countries and territories had elaborated national drug control master plans; those master plans were currently at different stages of implementation.

## II. GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

### A. Treaty adherence

72. From 1 January to 31 December 1996, 8 States (Bulgaria, Estonia, Gambia, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Switzerland, Turkmenistan and Yemen) became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[1] or that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] 7 States (Estonia, Gambia, Indonesia, Sao Tome and Principe, Switzerland, Turkmenistan and Yemen) became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[3] and 17 States (Belize, Botswana, Cuba, Gambia, Hungary, Ireland, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen) became parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[4]

73. In 1996, UNDCP provided legal assistance to 15 States (Angola, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Lesotho, Lithuania, Nepal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Swaziland) in the adoption of legislation and regulations to enable them to implement the international drug control treaties. UNDCP also provided Governments with assistance in the implementation of drug control laws and regulations to comply with their treaty obligations by providing training to judges, magistrates and prosecutors as well as with assistance in establishing witness protection schemes. A subregional seminar for judiciary personnel from States in western Africa was held at Abidjan, from 23 to 26 April 1996, and national seminars were held for such personnel in Ghana, Namibia and Yemen. Specialized subregional legal workshops focusing on mutual legal assistance were organized for member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and similar workshops focusing on money-laundering were organized for the Baltic States.

74. An expert group meeting held at Vienna from 9 to 13 December 1996 reviewed the UNDCP package of model legislation for common-law countries, to be completed in early 1997. The model civil law for licit control and the model penal law was finalized at an expert group meeting held at Vienna from 23 to 27 September 1996. In 1996, UNDCP published 66 national laws promulgated by 28 Governments to give effect to the international drug control treaties, particularly the 1988 Convention.

75. As of 25 October 1996, UNDCP had analysed 100 annual reports of Governments on the working of the international drug control treaties. The information was used in preparing country profiles and in updating the following annual publications: *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties*[5] and *Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors*.[6]

76. UNDCP continued to promote maritime cooperation to counter illicit drug trafficking by sea. An informal expert group, convened at Vienna in September 1996, assisted in the preparation of a training guide covering surveillance, risk assessment, boarding and searching of different kinds of vessels, collecting evidence and seizure of illicit drugs at sea. The guide will be used at a UNDCP regional training seminar for the region of Asia and the Pacific, to be hosted by the Government of Japan. UNDCP will be assisting the Governments of Caribbean States and Balkan States, particularly Croatia, in strengthening their capacities to counter illicit trafficking by sea.

77. UNDCP continued its preparation of a commentary on the 1988 Convention. The commentary will be published in 1997. In addition to providing guidance for a harmonized interpretation of the 1988 Convention, the commentary will include guidelines for its practical implementation.

78. In accordance with the 1991 working arrangements between UNDCP and INCB, the Programme provided secretariat services to the Board, assisting it in monitoring the functioning of the international drug control system, in close cooperation with Governments. UNDCP provided information for the preparation of the report of the Board for 1996,[7] and the UNDCP field offices assisted INCB in organizing press conferences and providing media coverage for that report. UNDCP also supported the preparation of three technical publications by INCB: on narcotic drugs,[8] on psychotropic substances[9] and on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.[10]

79. In addition, UNDCP supported INCB by organizing and funding several subregional training seminars for national drug control administrators on the requirements of the international drug control treaties and compliance with their provisions at the national level. A seminar held in Hong Kong in January 1996 provided training for drug control administrators from south-east Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, together with Hong Kong and Macao). Three workshops for national drug control administrators were held: for States in eastern Europe (at Helsinki from 17 to 20 June 1996), for the Baltic States (at Ankara from 30 September to 4 October 1996) and for the CIS member States (at Brussels from 8 to 6 December 1996). The workshops provided training to more than 70 officials from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

80. In central and eastern Europe, UNDCP worked closely with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in the field of precursor control. UNDCP cooperated with the Pompidou Group in developing a programme for the first annual meeting on the role of the pharmaceutical industry in preventing diversion, held at Brussels in December 1996.

81. In order to continue efforts to facilitate the electronic exchange of treaty-mandated information between Governments and INCB, UNDCP is supporting the Board in convening an international meeting to discuss the type of information to be shared and the modalities for such information-sharing. Such measures should contribute to a more efficient monitoring of the licit movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances throughout the world. In the last quarter of 1996, UNDCP, together with several countries, finalized an information system for use by national drug control administrations worldwide, beginning in 1997. The system will make use of personal computers.

82. UNDCP supported INCB in convening an expert group at Vienna in June 1996 to review the control of mixtures containing substances listed in Table I and Table II of the 1988 Convention. The expert group made a number of recommendations. It decided that further studies should be carried out to identify those substances that were commercially available and traded internationally and the extent of their use in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

### B. Demand reduction

83. In 1996, UNDCP provided support to Governments and non-governmental organizations in the development and implementation of preventive education strategies and programmes. It sought better coordination between donor and recipient countries, United Nations specialized agencies and programmes and non-governmental organizations and established close linkages between demand reduction objectives and programmes in national health and education sectors. UNDCP worked closely with UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, the Pan American Health Organization and the European Commission, as well as with international financial institutions and bilateral programmes.

84. UNDCP gave priority to national and regional programmes focusing on preventive education for high-risk groups (such as school-going and street children), epidemiological monitoring and data analyses using common standards and drug abuse prevention in the workplace and to programmes for integrating former drug abusers into society.

85. To enable Governments to understand better the extent and nature of drug abuse, UNDCP enhanced its capacity to support national capabilities to collect and analyse data on drug abuse, particularly by using rapid assessment surveys, in which sociological and anthropological methodologies are followed. Rapid assessment studies have been completed in Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Myanmar and Viet Nam. UNDCP has been providing support to rapid assessment surveys in selected areas in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Turkey.

86. UNDCP continued to use its International Drug Abuse Assessment System (IDAAS), a comprehensive system for data collection and analysis based, *inter alia*, on the replies of Governments to the annual report questionnaires on the implementation of the international drug control treaties. In the context of IDAAS, UNDCP will assist and support Member States in developing their capacity to monitor the drug abuse situation, mainly by providing training in data collection and analysis. To improve its information base, UNDCP cooperated actively with regional epidemiological networks. It concluded an agreement with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction to enhance cooperation in epidemiological research and the exchange of information on demand reduction.

87. The expert forums organized by UNDCP on demand reduction, such as the one held at Hammamet, Tunisia, in July 1996, have served as vehicles to review the drug abuse situation and stimulate and raise awareness of the basic concepts of demand reduction at the subregional level. It is anticipated that future expert forums will be important for the consideration of priority themes identified in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

88. UNDCP continued to cooperate closely with ILO and WHO on model programmes for alcohol and drug abuse prevention among workers and their families; the model programmes target five countries: Egypt, Mexico, Namibia, Poland and Sri Lanka. An Alliance of Resource Managers against Drug Abuse (ARMADA) has been formed. It is hoped that managers, rather than specialists in substance abuse, will gradually take the lead in drug prevention activities in the workplace. National and regional seminars have been held in Egypt, Mexico and Namibia to promote the use of the model. Such seminars have also been planned for Poland and Sri Lanka.

89. UNDCP convened a working group at Vienna from 10 to 13 December 1996 with expertise in demand reduction to assist the Executive Director in the development of the draft declaration on the guiding principles on demand reduction. The draft declaration will be circulated to Governments for comments and proposals.

## C. Supply reduction

### *1. Suppression of illicit drug trafficking*

90. In 1996, UNDCP regional drug law enforcement advisers in eastern and southern Africa, Latin America and south-east Asia, in coordination with headquarters-based law enforcement experts, provided advisory services and technical assistance to Governments and other UNDCP partners. The assistance led to the launching of 16 subregional law enforcement programmes in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, as well as in CIS member States. The law enforcement programmes cover, *inter alia*, the development of regional law enforcement information schemes, specific cross-border cooperation measures, the strengthening of land borders and seaports and improvement in the implementation of measures to counter illicit trafficking in precursors.

91. UNDCP continued to strengthen its links with other international entities working in the field of drug law enforcement, particularly the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) and the World Customs Organization. UNDCP, in collaboration with ICPO/Interpol and the World Customs Organization, reviewed the methodologies for the collection, analysis and distribution of information on illicit drug trafficking issues.

92. To identify short-term and medium-term measures to enhance operational drug law enforcement cooperation, UNDCP convened specialized technical operational consultations and workshops at the interregional and regional levels. In April 1996, UNDCP, with the support of ICPO/Interpol and the World Customs Organization, organized drug law enforcement workshops in Kyrgyzstan involving the CIS member States in central Asia and States in south-west Asia. Consultations were also organized for Belarus, Poland and Ukraine at Kiev in May 1996 and for Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey at Ankara in September 1996.

93. UNDCP has made efforts to revitalize the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerned with drug law enforcement and to enhance their contribution to regional drug law enforcement cooperation. Three of the subsidiary bodies met in 1996. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its thirty-first session, held at Amman from 9 to 13 March 1996, recommended closer cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies and measures to improve the exchange of intelligence, the adoption of measures to counter money-laundering. The Ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held at Cairo from 16 to 20 June 1996, recommended practical measures to improve coordination and liaison between drug law enforcement agencies, the gathering and sharing of intelligence at entry and exit points, the control of postal and courier parcels, measures to deal with corruption within drug law enforcement agencies and improved investigation of money-laundering offences. The Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held at Manila from 4 to 8 November 1996, recommended measures to counter illicit trafficking in stimulants, to counter the activities of drug couriers, to facilitate controlled delivery and to counter illicit trafficking in heroin through improved information exchange.

### *2. Alternative development*

94. With the appointment of regional alternative development advisers posted in south and south-east Asia and Latin America and strengthened expertise in alternative development at headquarters, UNDCP has underlined its commitment to supporting alternative development as a viable tool for reducing illicit crop cultivation. The role of UNDCP in alternative development continued to shift away from involvement in

fully funded projects and towards advocacy and the provision of support to strengthen the technical, managerial, monitoring and communication capacities of relevant government institutions responsible for alternative development at the national level. In addition, UNDCP has continuously made efforts to involve in alternative development programmes other United Nations entities engaged in development work, in order to link them with broader development objectives.

95. UNDCP has made substantial progress in enhancing its empirical database on illicit crop cultivation through improved survey methodologies and objective assessments. Substantial progress has been made on developing a model for making a comprehensive assessment of illicit crop cultivation, using a combination of methodologies, involving ground, aerial and satellite surveys. UNDCP has also been providing support for the monitoring of alternative development projects.

### *3. Money-laundering*

96. In cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, UNDCP launched in October 1996 a global programme against money-laundering valued at US$ 4.3 million. The main activities are aimed at, *inter alia*, raising public awareness, improving understanding of money-laundering, promoting the adoption of relevant legislation, improving law enforcement capacities to combat money-laundering, training and developing infrastructure for the implementation of an effective money-laundering strategy. UNDCP efforts against money-laundering were further substantiated during the Conference on Money-Laundering held at Riga, Latvia, from 13 to 14 November 1996. The Conference was organized jointly by the Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, UNDCP, the European Commission and the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission. The Conference adopted a declaration in which the Governments of the three Baltic States agreed to prevent the use of their financial institutions for the laundering of criminal proceeds and to harmonize their national legislation against money-laundering.

97. In 1996, UNDCP provided assistance to counter money-laundering to the following States: Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Estonia, Haiti, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Nepal, Pakistan, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Swaziland. Support was also provided for the establishment of national units to investigate money-laundering offences, particularly in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Venezuela.

## D. Research and science

98. In 1996, UNDCP carried out research on several important drug control issues, including a comprehensive global review of trends associated with amphetamine-type stimulants, the effects of armed conflict on illicit drug production, economic globalization and its impact on drug control regimes, constraints on empirical knowledge of the illicit drug industry, and the impact of the news media on the drug debate.

99. To deal with the escalating problem of abuse of and illicit trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, UNDCP organized an expert group meeting at Vienna in February 1996. A comprehensive study published by UNDCP on amphetamine-type stimulants was submitted to the Expert Meeting on Amphetamine-type Stimulants, convened by UNDCP at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996. The Meeting was hosted by the Government of China and funded by the Government of Japan. The drug control authorities and experts in government policy who participated in the Meeting identified comprehensive countermeasures against the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. The report of the Meeting (E/CN.7/1997/6) will be before the Commission at its fortieth session for its consideration.

100. In its efforts to strengthen its research capacity in the field of drug control, UNDCP consolidated its collaborative research ties with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Università Commerciale Luigi

Bocconi (Milan) and the Centro Studi Farmaco-tossicodipendenze of the University of Rome (Tor Vergata) through agreements on joint publications and research, the regular exchange of empirical data and statistics and short-term exchanges of professionals.

101. The Laboratory of UNDCP initiated a project on signature analysis and profiling of seized drug material and products. UNDCP continued its research and development of colour tests for amphetamine derivatives, the chemical components of khat (*Catha edulis*), for possible inclusion in drug identification kits. Over 700 kits for testing drugs and precursors have been produced and distributed to law enforcement agencies in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Turkey.

102. The Laboratory developed and disseminated standard guidelines, methodologies and procedures related to scientific work in support of drug control efforts of Member States. A consultative meeting held at Beijing from 2 to 8 December 1996 developed guidelines for the validation of analytical methodology regarding methods for testing drugs and the methodology for the identification and analysis of opiates in seized material, which will be published in 1997. In 1996, three manuals were published and distributed worldwide: *Clandestine Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control*[11] and *Recommended Methods for the Detection and Assay of Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines in Biological Specimens*.[12]

103. UNDCP provided 20 drug analysts from 11 countries with training in methods for the identification and analysis of drugs in seized material and biological specimens. Assistance was also provided to the national training programme in China. Participants in a workshop for central Asian countries held at Tashkent from 8 to 12 October 1996 assessed the impact of UNDCP assistance on activities of national laboratories.

104. The Laboratory continued to implement the International Proficiency Testing Scheme as part of an international quality assurance programme in which about 100 drug-testing laboratories worldwide took part. The laboratory continued to develop, implement and follow up on technical assistance projects. Some 21 national drug-testing laboratories were established or strengthened in Belarus, Colombia, Estonia, Ghana, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania and Niger, as well as in countries along the Balkan route and the central Asian republics.

### E. Inter-agency cooperation and advocacy

105. In 1996, UNDCP maintained the momentum it had gained in 1995 following the ACC decision to mobilize the United Nations system through intensified inter-agency cooperation. At the field level, UNDCP has succeeded in integrating drug control as a component in the programmes and activities of other United Nations bodies and agencies. In 1996, over 41 per cent of allocations from the Fund of UNDCP were made to United Nations system partners as executing or associated agencies. At its meeting held at Vienna from 4 to 6 September 1996, in which 11 agencies participated, the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control continued to monitor the process of elaborating the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which will further enhance inter-agency cooperation in drug control. In 1996, guidelines for United Nations resident coordinators and UNDCP field representatives were prepared to improve their coordination of United Nations efforts in drug control at the country and regional levels.

106. In 1996, cooperation agreements were signed with UNAIDS and WHO outlining areas where there were common interests and where collaborative efforts utilizing the comparative advantage of each party would be of mutual benefit.

107. To follow up the 1995 ACC decision and to ensure closer cooperation at the field level, the Executive Director of UNICEF wrote to all UNICEF field representatives, suggesting ways in which drug abuse control could be included in their programme of work. In addition, the Executive Director attended a working meeting at UNDCP headquarters at Vienna in November 1996. UNICEF brought to the attention of the

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly the adverse effects of illicit drugs on children and the fruitful collaboration that had developed between UNDCP and UNICEF at the field level.

108. UNDCP has taken a lead role in inter-agency coordination in drug control in Asia and the Pacific, under the umbrella of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It aims to establish national strategies and organizational and administrative structures for community-based demand reduction programmes using project implementation teams as the main driving force.

109. In order to reach an agreement on practical arrangements for joint activities in the field of law enforcement, UNDCP continued to collaborate with regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly ICPO/Interpol and the World Customs Organization. In November 1996 a memorandum of understanding was signed between UNDCP and the World Customs Organization establishing a framework for cooperation in such areas as information exchange, joint technical cooperation initiatives and improvement of law enforcement measures using forums such as HONLEA meetings and the RILO network. UNDCP welcomed General Assembly resolution 51/1, in which the General Assembly decided to invite ICPO/Interpol to participate in the sessions and the work of the Assembly in the capacity of observer; it is hoped that that decision will contribute to strengthen cooperation with that organization.

110. Three inter-agency pilot initiatives were launched in the African region in order to reach a wider range of groups vulnerable to drug abuse. One initiative incorporated into a non-formal UNICEF education project educational components aimed at preventing drug abuse, while two other initiatives introduced preventive education into UNFPA family planning and family life educational programmes in urban slum areas. The first UNDCP inter-agency programme in central Asia aimed at promoting community-based development in areas most affected by drug trafficking and illicit production in Kyrgyzstan, was being implemented in cooperation with UNDP and United Nations Volunteers.

111. A UNDCP-supported project on reducing risk behaviour related to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and drug abuse among street children in India was being implemented in collaboration with UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO and the national AIDS control organization. One of the objectives of the project was to assess problems related to drug abuse and sexual behaviour patterns as they relate to the transmission of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases among street children.

112. To ensure broad-based support for drug control objectives, UNDCP has sought to involve civil society and foster awareness of the adverse political, economic and social impact of illicit drug trafficking and abuse.

113. Building on the positive image of athletes, UNDCP, following the signing of a cooperation agreement with the International Olympic Committee, initiated a global "Sport against drugs" campaign, aimed at encouraging a healthy, drug-free lifestyle, particularly among young people. The campaign to use sports as a tool to prevent drug abuse has, to date, been supported by some 600 Olympic athletes and renowned sports personalities from 121 countries and territories. UNDCP is also reaching out to civil society through its Goodwill Ambassadors Programme, whereby leading personalities use their influence and appeal as role models in society to promote drug abuse prevention.

114. A part of its continued efforts to sensitize the private sector to drug abuse control, UNDCP will be convening in south-east Asia in 1997 a third private sector conference on drugs in the workplace and the community. UNDCP is currently undertaking a number of activities to prevent drug abuse in the workplace that are cost-shared by the private sector. It has also initiated preparations for an international business summit at the senior executive level, which will explore the possibility of funding global drug-free workplace programmes.

115. At the World Youth Forum, convened at Vienna from 25 to 29 November 1996 with the objective of promoting the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex), UNDCP co-chaired a working group on youth and drug abuse.

116. UNDCP continued its efforts to strengthen cooperation with international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The senior management of the Asian Development Bank has approved a UNDCP proposal to set up a focal point on drug control within the Bank.

117. To facilitate networking and the exchange of information and expertise among non-governmental organizations, UNDCP in June 1996 published a directory of non-governmental organizations working in drug demand reduction.

## IV. EVALUATION

118. The evaluation process was strengthened in 1996 following the introduction of a computerized database for the monitoring and reporting of UNDCP project evaluations. The new system will enable UNDCP to assess evaluation results and obtain systematic information on the need and possibilities for improving project performance.

### A. Project evaluations

119. In 1996, 24 projects funded by UNDCP were evaluated. Those projects involved control measures, demand and supply reduction and multisectoral activities. Of the 24 projects, 4 were in Africa, 6 were in Asia, 2 were in Europe and 12 were in Latin America. In general, project designs were found to be sound, logical, coherent and containing "appropriate" strategies. Overall, output had been in line with the quantity and quality planned and the impact on drug control was assessed to be consonant with or, in some cases, even above expectations. The projects had been well managed, but monitoring and backstopping services provided by UNDCP could be further improved. In many cases, the Governments concerned had not fulfilled all the obligations they had accepted.

### B. Thematic evaluations

120. A thematic evaluation completed in 1996 assessed the identification of priorities, programme development and resource allocation by UNDCP for technical cooperation activities in Africa. The evaluation found that the drug control knowledge base was weaker for Africa than for other regions. Although the subregional approach had some merits, it should be pursued cautiously. It was recommended that UNDCP should give due consideration to the great variation between African countries with respect to drug-related problems and the conditions for dealing with them. The field office network was not considered to be optimally structured and more authority should be delegated to the field.

121. It was recommended that UNDCP should give more attention to Africa and should establish closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations and grass-roots entities. UNDCP was evaluating the recommendations with a view to adopting appropriate measures. UNDCP has decided to reinforce its field presence by opening an office at Cairo with responsibility for northern Africa and the Middle East.

## V. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

### A. Administration

122. In 1996, the first round of staff rotation between UNDCP headquarters and field offices was initiated in accordance with the policy approved in 1995.

123. Several improvements were introduced in the area of administration. These included the implementation of a comprehensive work plan system for UNDCP, the finalization of the accounting and treasury arrangement of UNDCP initiated in 1995, the conclusion of an agreement between UNDCP and the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding audit and oversight functions, enhancement of the transparency of administrative matters vis-à-vis the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by introducing standard reporting on the use of consultants and on procurement actions, the conclusion of an agreement on procurement services between UNDCP and the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office of UNDP, the renegotiation of the service agreement between UNDCP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization that resulted in a reduction of charges, and adjustment of the budget methodology to provide a more realistic basis for projections.

### B. Financial status

124. The approved initial budget of UNDCP for the biennium 1996-1997 amounted to $168,988,700, comprising an amount under the regular budget of $16,540,200 and extrabudgetary resources of $152,448,500 supported under the Fund of UNDCP and programme support. The initial allocation for 1996 amounted to $82,333,800, with a regular budget component of $7,939,300 and an extrabudgetary amount of $74,394,500.

125. In 1996, UNDCP prepared the proposed revised budget programme for the biennium 1996-1997 and the proposed outline for the biennium 1998-1999 for the Fund of UNDCP and programme support cost for submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fortieth session (E/CN.7/1997/9). The proposed revised budget for the biennium 1996-1997 amounted to US$ 141 million, including a decrease in volume adjustments of US$ 13.8 million.

126. In 1996, the Executive Director responded to requests by the Commission contained in its resolution 15 (XXXVIII), regarding policy issues on the programme support arrangement, budget methodology and the presentation of draft financial policy for the Fund of UNDCP. UNDCP prepared draft financial rules of the Fund of UNDCP for submission to ACABQ and the Commission.

127. UNDCP continued to operate in vulnerable conditions, 90 per cent of voluntary contributions to the Fund of UNDCP, which accounts for over 90 per cent of the total budget of UNDCP, being provided by eight Governments. Currently, the regular budget of the United Nations accounts for less than 10 per cent of the total budget of UNDCP.

128. Pledges of voluntary contributions from donor countries to the Fund of UNDCP stabilized at around US$ 50 million in 1996, compared with US$ 64 million in 1995, US$ 50 million in 1994 and US$ 55 million in 1993. UNDCP requires additional general-purpose funds to undertake and sustain its core activities.

129. As expenditure continues to exceed income, the Fund balance will be significantly reduced in the biennium 1996-1997. For the biennium 1996-1997 estimated expenditure for the Fund of UNDCP is expected to exceed estimated income and programme support charges by US$ 10 million, resulting in a further decline in the Fund balance, to around US$ 51 million by 31 December 1997.

### C. Resource mobilization priorities

130. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 10 (XXXIX) endorsed the proposals of the Executive Director to improve the qualitative financing of UNDCP by broadening its resource base and to provide the critical mass of general-purpose resources required to support the Programme.

131. UNDCP initiated a vigorous follow-up of Commission resolution 10 (XXXIX), identifying approximately 60 countries as existing and potential donors. The outcome of fund-raising efforts are already starting to emerge, in spite of the fact that government approval of external resources is a lengthy process in most countries. In response to the appeal, eight Governments have confirmed additional general-purpose contributions amounting to US$ 1.8 million. Several countries in Asia, Europe and Latin America have indicated that they are reviewing the possibility of increasing their contributions to UNDCP.

132. In August 1996, confiscated assets of drug traffickers were, for the first time, contributed to the Fund of UNDCP, in line with the provisions of article 5 of the 1988 Convention.

133. UNDCP continued to encourage countries receiving technical assistance to assume an increasing share of the financial burden in national drug control activities. Increased cost-sharing in support of large drug control programmes was received from Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia.

134. To create a broader spectrum of partnership and to promote the involvement of society at large in dealing with international drug control issues, UNDCP is encouraging the private sector, particularly the corporate world, to contribute to its activities. UNDCP has developed contacts with selected private foundations active in philanthropic work and social development to explore the possibility of their co-funding its activities. One successful result of such efforts has been the continued support received from the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre in Japan, which contributed to UNDCP a significant share of the proceeds of its campaign to promote awareness of the dangers of drug abuse.

***Notes***

[1]United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[2]United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[3]United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[4]*Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[5]ST/NAR.3/1996/1.

[6]ST/NAR.4/1996/1.

[7]*Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XI.3.

[8]*Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 1997; Statistics for 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XI.1).

[9]*Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 1995; Assessments of Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XI.2).

[10]*Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1996 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XI.4).

[11]ST/NAR/10/Rev.1.

[12]ST/NAR/28.